GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5700
ANSWERED ON:25.04.2001
INDO-RUSSIA CONSULTATIONS
GOWDAR MALLIKARJUNAPPA

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether senior officials of India and Russia are holding consultations to expand strategic cooperation in combating international terrorism, drug trafficking and illegal arms trade, etc;

(b) if so, whether a high-level delegation from India visited Moscow and had discussions with Russian Government on these issues; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI U.V.KRISHNAM RAJU)

a) & (b) In line with the decisions taken during the State Visit to India by President of the Russian Federation, H.E. Mr. Vladimir Putin, in October 2000, India and the Russian Federation have set up a Joint Working Group on Afghanistan. The first meeting of the Indo-Russian Joint Working Group on Afghanistan was held in New Delhi on November 20-21, 2000.

As per the Protocol on Cooperation between the National Security Council of India and the Security Council of the Russian Federation, both sides have established Joint Coordination Groups on International Terrorism and International and Regional Security. The first meetings of the Joint Coordination Groups in International Terrorism and International and Regional Security were held in Moscow from February 19-21, 2001.

(c) During the meetings of the Joint Coordination Groups, issues relating to the challenges faced by both India and the Russian Federation from international terrorism and drugs trafficking were discussed. Discussions on regional and international security issues were also held.